GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3456
ANSWERED ON:07.12.2016
Community Radio
Puttaraju Shri C.S.

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether large number of community radio operators in the country are currently operating illegally and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether a majority of them do not have the licence to operate and the rest, do not have valid agreements with the Government; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government against them?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING [COL RAJYAVARDHAN RATHORE (Retd.)]

(a) to (c): All community radio stations operational in the country are having valid Grant of Permission Agreement (GOPA) with Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to set up and operate community radio station. As per GOPA, the term for operating community radio stations is for 5 years. Out of 201 operational community radio stations, 147 have completed 5 years term. As recommended by TRAI, Ministry has renewed GOPAs of these 147 stations till 31.12.2016 to allow them to continue their operations on existing terms and conditions.